

House Resolution 425

By: Representatives Drenner of the 86th and Benfield of the 85th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Tanning Salon Consumer Protection; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, every year more than one million people are diagnosed with skin cancer in the
4 United States; and

5 WHEREAS, the UVA rays that are emitted from the ultraviolet A light sources in tanning
6 salons are two to three times more powerful than the UVA rays which occur naturally from
7 the sun; and

8 WHEREAS, forms of photosensitivity including drug reactions and sun poisoning may be
9 initiated by tanning salon exposure; and

10 WHEREAS, over time, the effects of too much UVA exposure can lead to eye damage,
11 immune system changes, cataracts, wrinkles and premature aging of the skin, and skin
12 cancers; and

13 WHEREAS, approximately 90 percent of all skin cancers can be traced to UV exposure; and

14 WHEREAS, most "nonmelanoma" skin cancers are caused by unprotected sun exposure in
15 childhood and adolescence, specifically ultraviolet or UVA and UVB rays, and research
16 shows that bulbs at tanning salons emit ultraviolet rays; and

17 WHEREAS, melanoma is now the fastest growing cancer in the country, and dermatologists
18 associate the rising popularity of tanning beds as one reason for this trend; and

19 WHEREAS, studies suggest that teenagers believe that they are avoiding skin damage using
20 tanning beds, however, according to Atlanta dermatologic surgeon, Dr. Darren Casey, ten
21 trips to the tanning bed doubles your risk of melanoma; and

1 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports an estimated 700
2 emergency department visits per year are related to problems from tanning salon exposure;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, University of Alabama at Birmingham dermatologists cite the following factors
5 as making tanning in a salon as bad as or worse than lying in the sun: (1) Tanning facilities
6 sometimes fail to follow recommendations and regulations, such as ensuring that customers
7 wear eye protection and that overexposure does not occur; and (2) Tanning facilities do not
8 calibrate the UVA output of their tanning bulbs which can lead to too much exposure; and

9 WHEREAS, 15 states have passed laws regarding the operation of tanning facilities
10 including regulating safety and increasing the awareness of the dangers associated with
11 tanning booths; and

12 WHEREAS, Georgia is tied for tenth with Virginia for the most number of new cases of
13 melanomas each year; and

14 WHEREAS, more than 28 million Americans patronize tanning salons each year with young
15 women constituting the fastest-growing group of users; and

16 WHEREAS, a study published in the American Journal of Epidemiology found that many
17 young women who tanned in salons at least ten times a year had seven times the melanoma
18 incidence of nonusers; and

19 WHEREAS, tanning salons are not presently licensed in Georgia, and, in fact, there is no
20 mechanism currently in place to determine how many tanning salons even exist within this
21 state.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
23 there is created the House Study Committee on Tanning Salon Consumer Protection to be
24 composed of not more than six members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
25 Representatives. Four members of the House of Representatives shall serve as members of
26 the committee, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate one of such
27 members as chairperson. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The
28 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two additional members, a board
29 certified dermatologist and a representative of the tanning salon industry.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
2 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
3 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
4 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
5 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
6 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the
7 committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official
8 Code of Georgia Annotated. All funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution
9 shall come from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. The expenses and
10 allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the
11 committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. In the event the
12 committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for
13 proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 15, 2007. The
14 committee shall stand abolished on December 15, 2007.